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Food and Nutrition

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PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAMS

PLANNING IS ALREADY well under way for the summer feeding program--officially called the Special Summer Food Service Program for Children.

Last summer, participation in this popular program climbed to a total of nearly 1½ million children from low-income neighborhoods. Through it they were served nutritious lunches and snacks at school sites, playgrounds, and recreation areas.

As soon as that summer was over, local and State cooperators met with Food and Nutrition Service staff to plan ahead for the summer of 1973. The fiscal year 1974 budget again provides for \$50.6 million for the program--the same amount available in fiscal year 1973.

Drawing on this background, the FNS staff has prepared a series of informational and planning materials designed to help sponsors and cooperating agencies get started quickly to organize successful food service operations for this summer.

These include:

- "Special Summer Food Service Program for Children," (FNS-98). This new brochure explains the objectives of the summer feeding program, and outlines the responsibilities at all levels of program operation.
- "Sponsor Handbook," (PA-1032). This is a basic working guide for local

sponsors that also provides technical guidance on overall program administration. It has been expanded to clarify the lines of authority and levels of responsibility.

- "Training Manual," (PA-1031). This guide is designed to help sponsors in training site personnel and sponsor field representatives. It is written in an easy-to-use teaching style and will always be sent with the sponsor handbook.
- "Site Handbook." This is a daily guide for the site supervisor, and it parallels the format of the training manual.
- A photo-slide series, with accompanying narration in script and on tape cassette. This presentation is for use by State agency and regional office personnel in training program sponsors.
- A set speech, explaining the program to a general-public audience, for use by staffs of FNS, cooperating agencies, and private groups, who have opportunity to tell such audiences about the program.

Copies of all these materials are available from Regional Offices of the Food and Nutrition Service, or from the Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Recognizing that program regulations are not yet in final form, all these materials are being distributed with a warning notice calling attention to the fact that the final regulations are still in the rulemaking process (see following item).

Careful lists are being kept of those who receive copies; if the final regulations make changes that modify these materials, follow-up corrections will be made. Meanwhile, planning can get under way to give maximum lead time to everyone concerned.

Food and Nutrition Magazine Focuses on Summer Feeding

THE APRIL ISSUE of FOOD AND NUTRITION magazine will tell the stories of how two cities operated highly successful summer feeding programs.

- A feature on Portland, Ore., tells how local groups worked with public school districts to serve 4,000 children daily at 80 recreational sites.
- A detailed 6-page article describes the Summer Food Demonstration Project conducted last year by FNS and Cincinnati. The purpose of the project was to develop an efficient, financially sound feeding operation using innovative approaches.

The Cincinnati story includes details on such various aspects of the operation as training, menu planning, preparation and delivery, accounting, and food acceptability.

So that everyone who wants this information immediately can get it, even though the magazine is still at the printer, advance copies of "Special Food for Summer in Cincinnati" are now available either from FNS regional offices or the Child Nutrition Division in Washington.

FNS PROPOSES SUMMER FEEDING REGULATIONS

FNS HAS ANNOUNCED proposed changes in the regulations for the operation of food service in summer recreational programs. These changes are designed to help sponsors of summer feeding programs to better plan and carry out the feeding of needy youngsters during the summer months when school cafeterias are closed.

The changes are based on the operating experience gained since the program's inception in 1969 and emphasize the use of school food service facilities to the maximum extent possible. They clarify responsibilities at all levels of program operations, provide greater flexibility in the types of meals served, and provide improved guidelines for the selection of food service sites to insure safe and sanitary service of meals to eligible children.

The proposals require State agencies to set standards for determining if a service institution has the ability to operate a summer program. These standards will determine, for example, if an institution has adequate personnel and capacity for financial and administrative operation of a complex quantity food service program for large groups of children.

In selecting food service sites, consideration must be given to:

- Controlling access to meals so that only eligible children eat meals on the site;
- Protective food storage and holding facilities;
- Food service during inclement weather.

The proposed regulations also provide for a "summer meal" as an alternative

to a complete lunch when problems of food safety in transportation and food storage arise. They delete all references to breakfasts and lunches to allow flexibility in the time of day when the meal is served.

The proposed regulations also:

- Make the eligibility standards the same as those used during the school year;
- Waive individual free meal determinations when sponsors have evidence that all children served will come from low-income areas;
- Specify monitoring requirements for sponsors for this year with a parallel State-level responsibility provided for in the 1974 program.

The proposed regulations were published in the Federal Register on Feb. 20. Comments, suggestions, or objections are invited and should be submitted to Herbert D. Rorex, Director, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. They

must be received by March 22. Communications should identify the regulation, section, and paragraph.

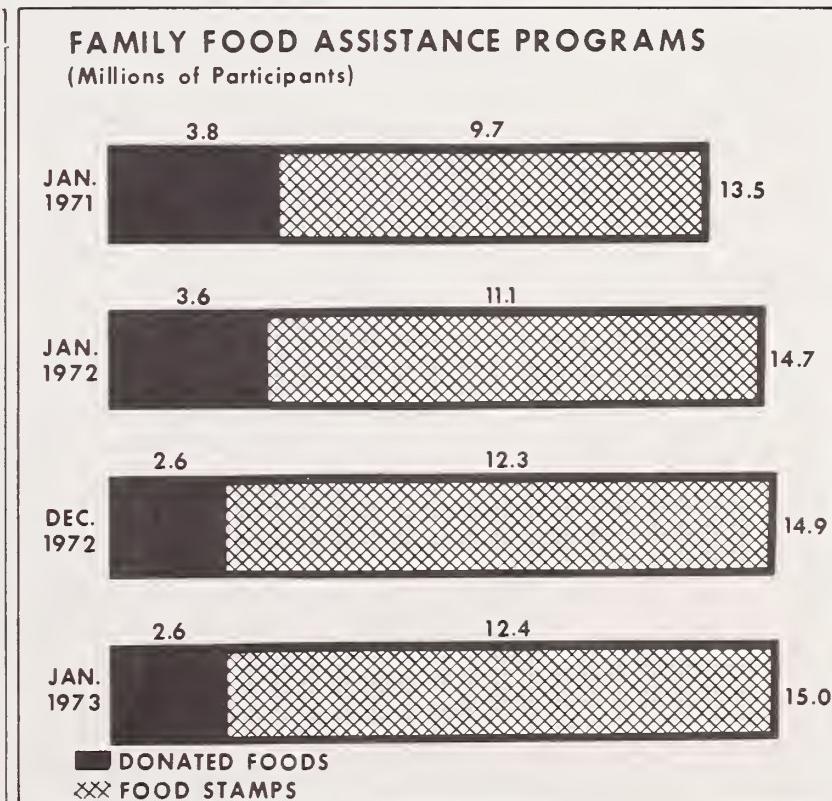
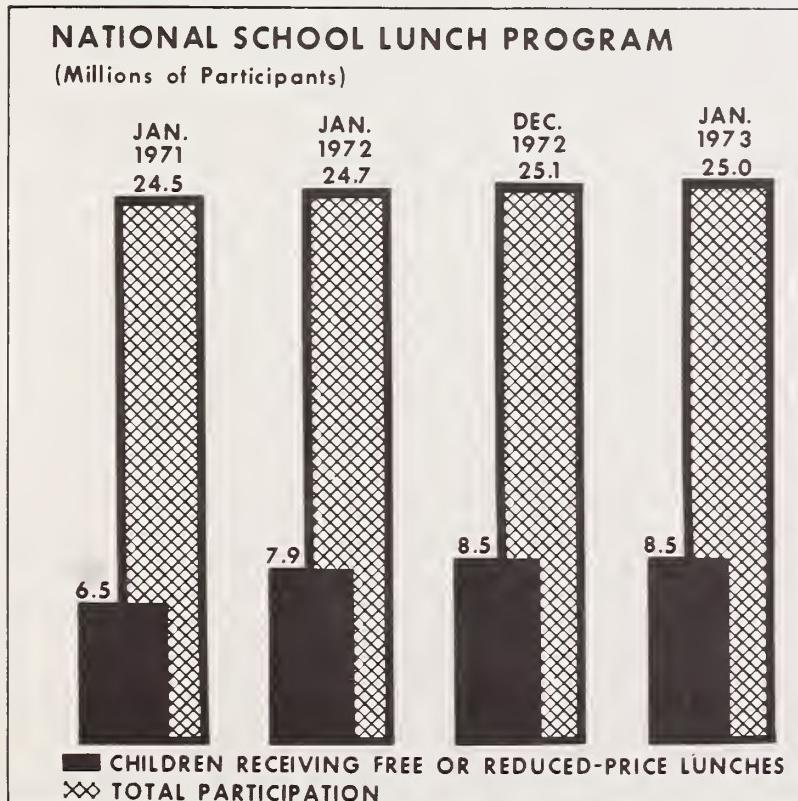
CHANGES PROPOSED IN CHILD NUTRITION REGULATIONS

LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR school lunch programs would be strengthened by a proposed amendment to income poverty guidelines and proposed changes in child nutrition program regulations.

In determining eligibility of schoolchildren for free or reduced-price school meals, local administrators would be authorized to consider specified family hardship situations.

A related amendment to the national income poverty guidelines is being proposed to inform schools of the specific hardships that shall be incorporated into eligibility criteria.

Under the proposed change, when schools determine whether children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, they would not count that portion of family income spent for unusually high medical expenses, shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of income, special education ex-



penses due to the mental or physical condition of a child, or disaster and casualty losses.

The proposed regulations put into effect the changes provided in P.L. 92-433 and modify the Federal prohibitions against "competitive food service." Responsibility for regulation of foods sold in competition with school lunches is placed with State and local school authorities, so long as the profits from such sales go to the school or school approved student organizations.

Other proposed changes to the regulations would provide for: replacing the State apportionment formula for the lunch and breakfast funds with a performance funding system which provides a payment to the State for each meal served during a fiscal year; advance payment of Federal funds for lunch programs, similar to the advance payment procedures for breakfast programs; uniformity of standards for free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches.

These regulation changes are proposed to implement P.L. 92-433--signed into law by President Nixon on Sept. 26, 1972--which provides numerous amendments to the Child Nutrition Act and National School Lunch Act. These changes are to be implemented as soon as practicable but no later than July 1.

Suggestions are invited and should be sent to Herbert D. Rorex, Director, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, by March 16.

Income Averaging for Food Stamps

A RECENTLY PROPOSED amendment to food stamp program regulations would require that the income of certain households be averaged over a 12-month period.

The proposed amendment applies to all households which expect to receive income for less than 12 months but more

than 8 months of each calendar year. Under the current regulations a household's income is based on anticipated income during the certification period. The usual certification period is from 3 to 6 months.

The proposed amendment was published in the Federal Register Feb. 9. Comments are invited and should be submitted to James H. Kocher, Director, Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service.

James H. Lake Is Named Deputy Assistant Secretary

JAMES H. LAKE HAS been named Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, to the new Assistant Secretary, Clayton Yeutter.

As the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Consumer Affairs, Mr. Yeutter is in charge of a broad spectrum of activities, including the food assistance programs which are administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

Mr. Lake is a native of California's San Joaquin Valley. Born in Fresno, he was graduated from Bakersfield College in 1957, and from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1959.

He brings experience in the retail food business to his new duties, and experience in school administration gained with the Board of Trustees of the Delano Union Elementary School District. He was active in civic affairs in Delano, serving as Director of Harvest Holidays, as Vice President of the Businessmen's Association, and Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

The new Deputy Assistant Secretary also has had extensive experience in Congressional affairs in Washington, having served as Administrative Assistant to Congressman Robert B. Mathias, Representative from California's 18th District.